

Priority Area Biologists

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Pheasant Habitat Development Program

Pheasants were once abundant across northern Indiana and the population peaked in the late 1960's and early 1970's. At that time there was upward of 4 million acres of Hoosier farmland idled in USDA land retirement programs. These idled farmlands provided our pheasants with ideal conditions to nest and raise their young. However, farm policy has since changed such that it is more difficult for Hoosier farmers to have their land accepted into USDA land retirement programs. Currently there is only slightly more than 250,000 acres of idled farmland across the state. This enormous loss of habitat coupled with changes in farming practices led to the decline of the Indiana pheasant population.



To help address the population decline, the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife has designated priority areas to focus on pheasant habitat management. A professional wildlife biologist will provide each eligible landowner with a habitat management plan for their property. The pheasant habitat development program will then provide up to 90% of the cost of the recommended practices. Additionally, landowners willing to enroll their land in federal land retirement programs will be eligible for a one-time signing incentive.

How To Apply

The accompanying map and priority area descriptions can be used by interested landowners to determine if they are eligible for the pheasant habitat development program. Interested landowners should contact the appropriate priority area biologist listed on the back page of this brochure to discuss pheasant management on their property. The biologist will write a management plan for each acceptable land parcel and determine the amount of monetary assistance available to complete the work.



To be eligible for monetary assistance, all habitat practices must be approved by the priority area biologist. The eligible habitat practices and maximum payments are listed on the next panel. The total monetary assistance will not exceed 90% of the cost of the habitat project and no payments will be made until completion of the work.

Eligible Practices and Payments

CRP Enrollment

Individuals enrolling in specific Regular or Continuous CRP practices are eligible for a one-time signing incentive of up to 120 % of the average soil rental rate for each acre accepted into the program. This incentive payment is in addition to any signing incentive payments provided by USDA.

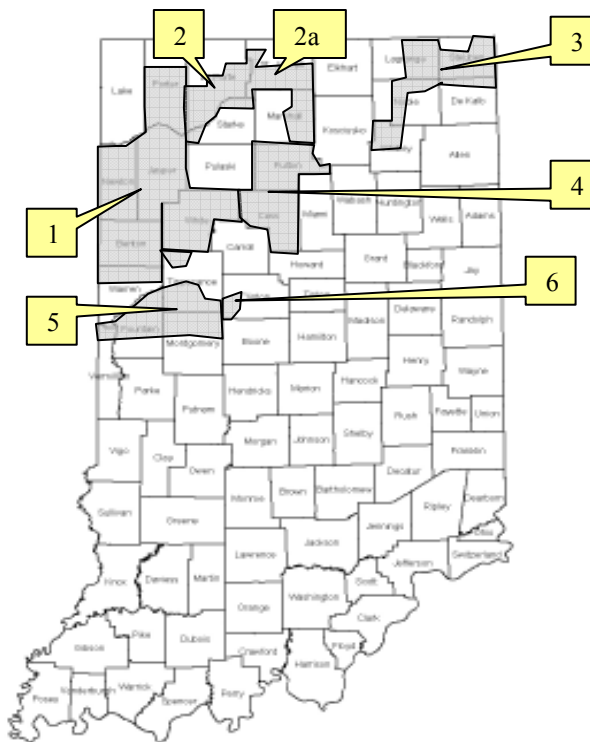
CRP Mid-Contract Management

Individuals voluntarily enrolling existing CRP (prior to Sign-up 26) into mid-contract management activities are eligible for an incentive payment not to exceed \$16/acre for light disking, \$10/acre for legume interseeding, \$27/acre for strip spraying, and \$20/acre for prescribed burning. This incentive payment is in addition to any cost-share provided by USDA.

Habitat Practices Not Related to CRP (Maximum payments per practice)

- Establishment of warm-season grasses -\$175/acre
- Establishment of cool season grasses (excluding fescue) -\$90/acre
- Fescue Eradication -\$30/acre
- Grain food plots - \$80/acre
- Shrub plantings - \$400/acre
- Lightly disked strips through mature stands of grass - \$30/acre
- Legume interseeding - \$40/acre
- Chemical application - \$30/acre
- Control burning - \$40/acre

Priority Areas for Pheasant Management in Indiana



Priority Area Descriptions

Priority Area # 1

Porter County S of Division Road
All of Benton, Newton, Jasper & White Counties
Prairie, Pine, Adams, & Medina Twp in Warren County

Priority Area # 2 & 2a

Dewey, Prairie, Hanna, Washington, Union, Lincoln, & Johnson Twp in LaPorte County.
Railroad Twp, Davis & Oregon Twp N of US 30 in Starke County
Marshall County E of US 31
Olive & Warren Twp S of US 20 & W of US 20 bypass, Greene Twp NW of S.R. 23, Lincoln, Union & Madison Twp in St. Joseph County.

Priority Area # 3

Dekalb County N of US 6
Elkhart, Orange, Wayne, Noble, & York Twp in Noble County
LaGrange County E of S.R. 9
Steuben County S of US 20 & E of SR 827
Whitley County W of S.R. 9

Priority Area # 4

All of Cass & Fulton Counties

Priority Area # 5

Tippecanoe County N of Hwy 52 & W of S.R. 43
Tippecanoe County S of Wabash & SR 26 & W of I-65
Montgomery County N of I-74
Fountain County N of I-74
Vermillion County N of S.R. 32

Priority Area # 6

Washington & Perry Twp in Clinton County